

**2015**

**MLK Jr Day Finalists**

**Poems and Letters**

**Somerville Public School Students**

# Dear Martin Luther king,

Thank you for making a difference between black and white people. We are treated equally because of you .You changed the world, and you thought us a valuable lesson. We now have freedom. I wish you could see what you have done for the world. All because you, I have many friends of color. It doesn't matter what color you are it only matters what you're like on the inside. You had a dream and you focused on it and never give up. Your dream came true. All because of you now we can use the same bathroom, collage, and etc. Even people said that you can't change the world u never listen to them and didn't even give up. All because of you we have friends with colored .So thank u so much for all of your hard work.



LOVE,  
SHREESHA  
*gs*

1/12/15

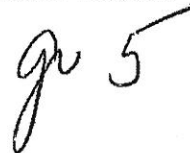
Emelin Lones

Dear Martin Luther King Jr.

Thank you for stopping seggration. Now people don't have to be separated. People don't call other people names. All people can vote not like before. Your speeches and all those protests you did made a big difference. Your boycotts also made a big difference. You didn't use violence to stop all the injustice, you used words. You even went to prison because of what you did. Sometimes words can make a big difference. I sometimes wonder what it would be like if you didn't change people's thoughts about one another. Now people don't have to use different things or go different places. People can use all public stuff without no punishment or getting yelled at. I really appreciate what you did for the world. That was really nice of you giving your life for African Americans.

Sincerely,

Emelin Lones

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'gr 5', written below the printed name 'Emelin Lones'.

Ajay Singh

Grade 4

Healey

### I CAN'T

I can't change the world.

I don't know why

I can't change the world,

I don't know how.

The world is too big.

I am too small.

I can't change the world,

But Martin Luther King Jr. did.

# Treating People Kindly

By Helena Rose Easton

Treating people kindly is important. You shouldn't bully someone because of their skin, hair, or if they're different or they do something gross. You should think before doing something mean. Remember if someone does something to you or you are just mad don't take it out on someone or do something back. Take the high road (the right way). Don't be a bully, be a good friend. You should remember the golden rule, treat people the way you want to be treated.

Dear Martin Luther King Jr.,

Thank you for all the hard work you have done to stop racism and segregation. Also thank you for encouraging everyone to fight for what we believe in by not using violence, but by being peaceful. You have carried a legacy by speaking up and doing the right thing. MLK JR. you have you have done great things even if people were against you. Thank you for giving us equality and helping the community to be united. You still knew that your life was at risk but you still fought.

Your bravery and your hard work have paid off and now black and white can eat a sit together. We don't live in a life of being separate and being judged by your skin color. Martin you truly are one of my idols I can look up to. So thank you for giving me someone to believe in and to look up to when I am down. I hope you enjoyed the life you had and the life you lived. I am sorry that you did not get to stay long for the years that there was a change. But I am sure that you're happy because the change you wanted to make has happened.

Your friend,

Kyissa Almeida



I am sure that you will be

happy to make it happen

**Dear Martin Luther King Jr.**

**I would like to start off by saying thank you because you stood up in front of blacks and whites and made a difference. You told them that we are all equal and we are all human beings. You stated that blacks are like whites and whites are like blacks. Thanks to you I have all the friends I can have. In my apartment, school, city, state, etc. there are different colored people and all of them can hang out.**

**Thanks to you today we can all use the same bath room, the same public transportation, the same school, the same college. However I feel sorry for you because when you were a child you didn't have these opportunities. When you grew older you couldn't tolerate the segregation and you started a movement. During your movement you made an amazing speech that pulled both colors together however you had less than 5 years to enjoy that time and the amazing part is you didn't use violence you communicated. I am pleased that you gave blacks there civil rights. What I am trying to say is that you did something very important for the nation and didn't even get more than 5 years to enjoy it. So thank you and I bet if you knew that you would die you still would of given that wonderful speech. Thanks again!**

**Love,**

**Misghana**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Misghana', written in dark ink.

**Dear Martin Luther King Jr.,**

**Thank you for equality and freedom. You made a huge difference in the world. You changed the wrong ways of people and showed them kindness even though they treated you bad. They did not have the desire to show colored people the respect they deserved. You thought that wasn't right and did something about it so you started boycotts, protests and more. You had a dream that black and white people would come together in peace. So thank you for all the effort you put into doing the right thing. I bet you probably had some setbacks when they started to attack you and bombed your house but you kept going and that's why we are proud of you. Thank you for our freedom. By creating equality, you accomplished your dream. Now I can play with my schools, drink out of the same water fountains as white friends and go to restaurant's , different**



**other people. I can also ride the bus without  
segregation. So again, thank you. You did  
everything you could to change people's minds  
about colored people.**

Nathanael Simon

Grade 5

Carly McMahon

Grade 4

Healey School

### **SHATTERED**

The world is shattered.

People stretch and pull it apart.

People were separated by the color of their skin.

It was appalling.

Splintered shards were lying everywhere.

Martin Luther King Jr. was the adhesive.

He treated everyone with respect and kindness.

Martin Luther picked up the pieces and began putting them back together.

WE have to pick up the rest of the pieces and finish what he started.

The world was shattered.

Owen Carr

Grade 4

Healey

### The World Changes With You

Changing the world starts with you.

Don't be embarrassed to share

Out what you want to be,

Even if it's not what your friends want to be.

Always be yourself.

Be kind.

Be respectful.

You will change the ~~world~~ world.

## **MLK Speech**

There comes a time in ones life, when you must think about the past, and how it has affected our lives today. Dr. Martin Luther King's vision was always to foresee a better future not only for blacks, but for all people seen as a problem rather than people. A vision that the strongest weapon we could use in a fight for change and equality, was peace. And i too now carry that light within me, that flaming torch that Dr. King left for us to pick up. But he did not leave it to me alone, he left it to us, the american people, a nation built upon freedom, and protection of our rights. So let that be our fuel, let Dr. King's dream run through our veins like it's the blood that fills us. Let you and i, continue to add pieces to that unfinished dream. I believe it is our civic duty to promote peace and tranquility amongst all, because you see my friends, there is a prize at the end of this journey. A prize we must keep our eyes on, a prize we must as a nation fight to protect. A prize we as individuals must dedicate our lives to staying true to. Dr. King dreamed of that prize, and my friends i dream of it too. BUt i can't do it alone, i can't be the only one dedicated to seeing change, dedicated to bringing peace. Not only here at home, but abroad as well. We are only as strong as we allow ourselves to be, let there be no boundaries to what we together can accomplish, let there be voice that can stop us. we together, we as one, and we the people, are the fuel that is needed to build the path to change, justice, and prosperity, thank you.

Joshua Ojo  
January 2015